[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes In Assam

*459. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented and proposed to be implemented in Assam for the development of Agriculture during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the details of the achievements made thereunder during the said period; and

(c) the amount allocated and utilized for those schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A list of new schemes being implemented by Department of agriculture and Cooperation for development of Agriculture during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given below:

(i) Streamlining certified seeds production of important identified crops.

(ii) National Programme for Varietal Development.

(iii) Integrated Seed Development Programme for remote/not easily accessible areas.

(iv) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based cropping system.

Out of these schemes, the schemes implemented in Assam are given below along with amount released in 1995-96:

Sl. No	Name of Scheme	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh) in 1995-96
1.	Integrated Seed Development for remote/ not easily accessible areas	1.06
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping Systems	43.66

The above schemes are likely to be continued during 1996-97 also, for which release of funds would be made on receipt of proposals from State Government.

There is no proposal under consideration at present to start any other new schemes during 1996-97.

Since the above schemes were started during 1995-96, it is too early to asses the achievements at this stage.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities in Trains

*460. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide medical facilities and services of doctors in all the long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A proposal for providing the services of Railway doctors in the long distance trains alongwith other associated details is under finalization.

Provision exists to provide first-aid to the travelling public who are overtaken by sudden sickness or injuries during journey. First-aid boxes are provided with the Guards of all and with the train/catering superintendent of some selected long distance trains. Contents of these boxes can also be used by any doctor who happens to be travelling in the train or by the Guards of train who are compulsarily trained in first-aid.

[English]

Guage Conversion

3940. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority is given to the backward and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe dominated districts in India for conversion of Meter guage line to Broad guage and for new railway links or completion of on going projects;

(b) if so, whether Eklakhi-Balurghat Railways Project of West Bengal and conversion of Meter guage to Broad-guage between Barsoi junction of Bihar o Radhikapur of West Bengal would be taken on priority basis; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) This is not the major criteria for taking up works. However, lines having traffic potential which also serve the developmental needs of tribal and backward areas are given priority.

(b) and (c) Eklakhi-Balurghat is already in progress. The work is being given priority. As regards, Guage Conversion of Barsoi-Radhikapur it is not included in the first phase of project Uniguage. However, the section would be considered along with remaining lines when the next phase is taken up.